

Remarks

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-10 are allowed. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Awatsu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,607). Claims 12-26 are objected to, but are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The invention is believed to be patentable.

Claim 11 recites a network of interconnected electronic locking and money control devices comprising a central processing system. The central processing system is integrated with one of the electronic locking and money control devices and arranged to control operation of the integrated device. The central processing system is connected to all other network devices, and further arranged to communicate with all the other network devices and provide network control of all the other devices.

The claimed central processing system is exemplified in Figures 1-3 as safe/central network control unit 10. This subject matter is described in the specification at page 3, lines 10-16; and page 5, lines 1-19.

In accordance with the invention as recited by claim 11, the central processing system is integrated with one of the electronic locking and money control devices. In this way, the electronic locking and money control device functions as an electronic locking and money control device, as well as a central processing system connected to all of the network devices. By being arranged in communication with all other network devices, the claimed central processing system provides network control of all the other devices. That is, in the invention as recited by claim 11, the central processing system, which is part of one of the electronic locking and money control devices, performs central processing system functions. Awatsu fails to suggest these claimed feature in the recited combination of claim 11.

Advantageously, the invention as recited by claim 11 comprises an arrangement where a fully functional electronic locking and money control device may in turn act as the central processing system by communicating with all the other network devices and providing

network control of all the other devices. Awatsu lacks these features and there is no motivation to provide the missing features.

Awatsu does describe a cash processing system for automatically performing cash handling operations associated with banking services. In more detail, Awatsu is about reducing manual operation in placing cash in and collecting cash from a cash handling apparatus to eliminate the possibility of error or theft occurring. Awatsu is about automatically performing cash handling operations. More specifically, Awatsu comprehends a detachable safe, a cash processing apparatus, and a cash handling apparatus. This arrangement is exemplified in Figure 4 and includes cash safe 2, cash processing apparatus 1, and cash handling apparatuses in the form of ATMs and cash dispensers 3. As explained by Awatsu, the cash processing apparatus 1 receives the detachable cash safe for automatically placing a commanded amount of cash therein. A cash handling apparatus 3 receives the safe 2 for performing services including a cash dispensing service.

The Examiner makes specific reference to Figure 4 and to Column 9, line 7 - Column 14, line 49. Host computer 4b is connected to terminal controller 4a and to the cash handling apparatuses 3. The Examiner states that host computer 4b is a central processing system "arranged to control operation of the integrated device, wherein the central processing system is connected to all other network devices, and further arranged to communicate with all other network devices."

According to claim 11, the central processing system is integrated with one of the electronic locking and money control devices and arranged to control operation of the integrated device, etc. Specifically, claim 11 comprehends an arrangement where one of the electronic locking and money control devices in turn acts as a central processing system and provides network control of all the other devices. Awatsu does not describe or suggest such an arrangement.


Host computer 4b in Awatsu is not "integrated with one of the electronic locking and money control devices and arranged to control operation of the integrated device" in

combination with the other recited limitations. Host computer 4b does perform certain host computer operations. Nevertheless, claim 11 recites a specific arrangement that is not suggested. After all, host computer 4b is not integrated with an electronic locking and money control device as required by claim 11.

For the reasons given above, claim 11 is believed to be patentable, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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